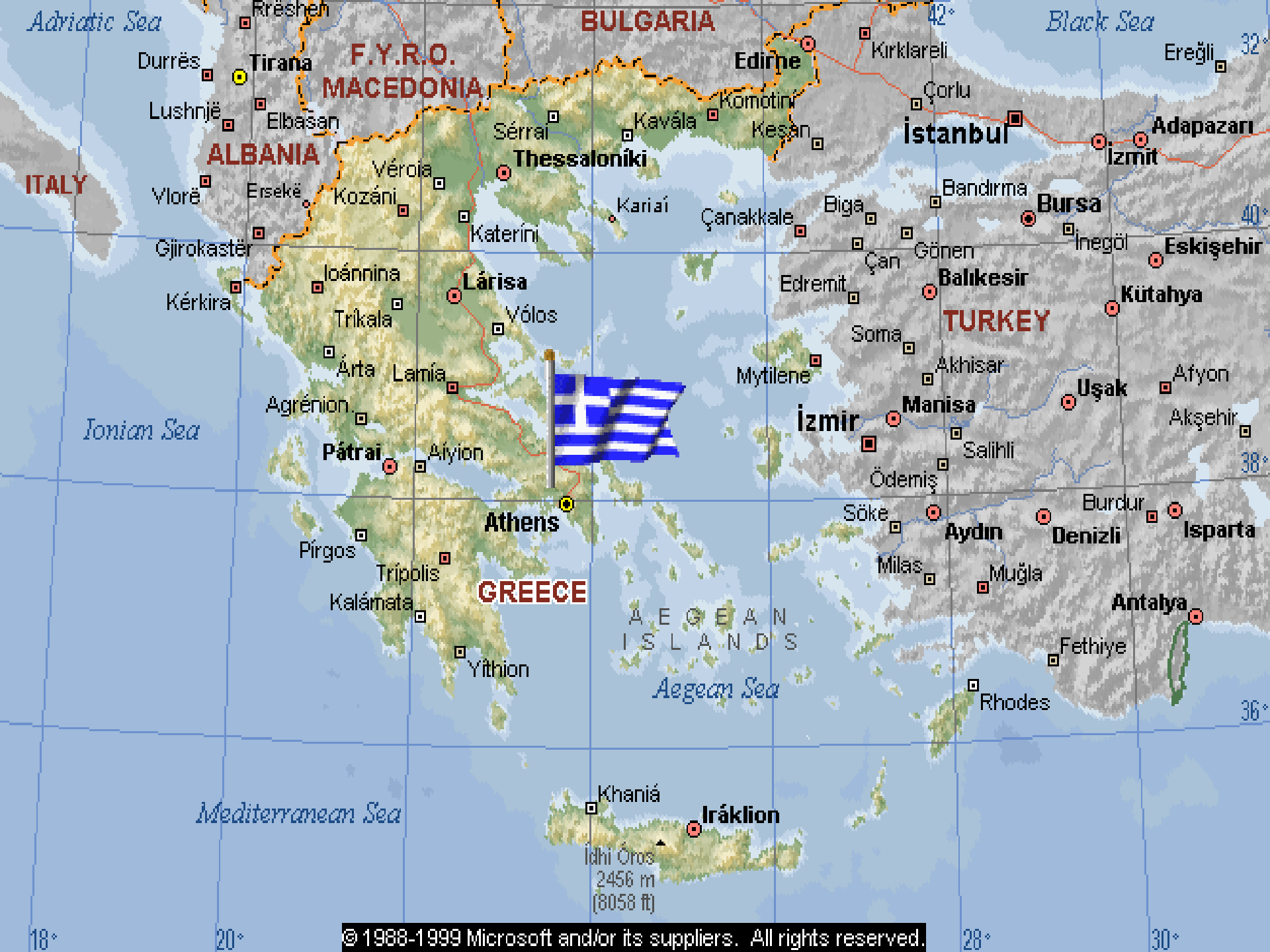
TRAVELER'S BRIEFING

GREECE

ELLINIKI DHIMOKRATIA



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BACKGROUND

Full Name: Hellenic Republic

Capital: Athens

Population: 10,707,135 (est)

Type of government: Parliamentary Rep

Head of government: Pres Kostos Steph

PM Konstandinos Simitis

Official language(s) Greek, English, Fre

Economy: Mixed capitalist

Religions: Greek Orthodox (98%)

TRAVEL

Travel restrictions: None

International Airport: Athens

Flights from Frankfurt: Lufthansa, Olympic, Ethiopia Air, Cuba

Other methods of arrival: Ship/Road/rail

U.S. Embassy address: 91 Vasilissis Sophias Boulevard, Athens
Tel: 30-1-721-2951 ext 2220/2282/2285; FAX: 30-1-725-

Transportation: Public transportation: Good.

Urban Roads/Maintenance: Good.

Rural roads/Maintenance: Fair.

Availability of roadside assistance: Poor. Visitors to Greece must be prepared to drive defensively. Drivers must carry a valid U.S. driver's license and an international driver's license. Vehicles may be rented without a license, but the

ENTRY/EXIT

Travel Necessities: Greece is designated a Special Area by the DoS for senior official travel only (general/flag officers and senior executive service (SES) personnel or equivalent). Country clearance from ODC/USCCOG is required for official visits to Greece. Theater Clearance is also required when visits pertain to the mission of USCINCEUR. All travelers including dependents, DoD employees, and contractual personnel require passports. For official travel, a no-fee passport is required. All other US military personnel are exempt passports. Identification cards and NATO travel orders are required for military personnel entering without passports. Personnel staying over 90 days are required to obtain alien resident permit or police identity card. Four passport photographs are required with the

Customs, immigration, and quarantine inspection is

Duty-free entry for used personal effects: camera and film, portable typewriter, cigarette lighter, electric razor, record player, 50 cigars, 200 cigarettes, reasonable amount of

HELPFUL HINTS

Special restrictions:Cameras are prohibited on military installations and in posted military defense zones. Photographs may not be taken of any Hellenic military installation. Firearms are prohibited except during hunting season. Unauthorized purchase or removal of antiquities, including pieces of archaeological sites, is strictly forbidden. Penalties range from fines of several hundred dollars to prison terms. US citizens who are also considered to be Greek citizens may be subject to compulsory Greek military service and other aspects of Greek law while in Greece. Greek-Americans should inquire at the Greek embassy or a Greek consulate to determine their status before traveling to Greece. In some instances, dual nationality may

Clearance offices are closed Sat, Sun, and Hellenic and US holidays. Amembassy will observe the following Greek holidays: 6 Jan; 22 Feb; 25 Mar; 9, 12 Apr; 1 May; 15 Aug; and 28 Oct.

MONEY

Currency restrictions:There is no limit on import of foreign currency, however, travelers entering Greece with more than $500 worth of non-Greek currency must declare excess to currency control officials at point of entry. Failure to declare these funds may result in serious problems for the traveler, including confiscation of these funds upon departure. Travelers checks, letters of credit, and unendorsed bank drafts issued in the traveler's name are excluded. A copy of the declaration form should be retained by the traveler as proof of declaration upon departure. Currency exchange is made at all banks, US Missions, and US military disbursing offices.

Rate: Approximate: 7.96 drachma for $1.

HEALTH

Major threats: diarrhea, respiratory diseases, accidents, arthropod-borne diseases, STDs, cold injuries, industrial pollution and heat injuries (limited).
Availability of medical services: Good. Medical facilities are adequate, and some in Athens and Thessaloniki are quite good.
Medical Insurance: May not apply in Greece. Check with your policy advisor to see if you are covered or will be reimbursed.

Status of hospitals: Good.

Health Precautions: Gastrointestinal infections, hepatitis, and other food and water-born diseases are common.

Immunizations: Hep A (recommended), Hep B (recommended), TB (recommended) MMR (recommended) and tetanus-disptheria boosters (recommended). Personnel who are sensitive to immunizing agents may be granted a waiver if they possess a certificate of sensitivity or allergy. They must report periodically to the health authorities until

FORCE PROTECTION

Country Clearance: Required for all military personnel traveling to Greece not in support of operations in the Balkans. You obtain this by going through your S3/G3 section. This must be done at least 30 days ahead of scheduled visit. DV visits will also be coordinated through G3/S3 channels.

Briefings: AT/FP level I brief from command's Level II trainer

The US Secretary of Transportation announced that Hellenikon Intl Airport in Athens needs to implement and carry out more effective security measures in order to be fully consistent with the standards established by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). The determination applies to Athens Airport and not to the air carriers which fly from Athens to the United States. Boil water from lakes, streams, and wells. Avoid local dairy products, unwashed vegetables, and raw sea food. Cook all foods well. Eat at recommended places. Although civil disorder is rare in Greece, several active terrorist groups have targeted

CRIME

Criminal Activities: Crime against tourists (purse-snatchings, pick-pocketing) appears to be on the rise at popular tourist sites and on crowded public transportation, particularly in Athens. The usual safety precautions practiced in any urban area ought to be practiced during a visit to Greece.The loss or theft of a U.S. passport should be reported immediately to the local police and the nearest U.S. embassy or consulate.

Croatia is strict on: Registering with the police within 48 hours of arrival.

WEATHER

http://cnn

CLOTHING

Uniform restrictions:All US military personnel arriving or departing Greece are required to wear civilian clothing. This requirement applies to travellers on official business or those on leave. Members' PCS, TDY, or leave orders should state, "Wearing of civilian clothing required for travel to/fromGreece." Wearing of military uniforms off military installation is prohibited except as approved by local US commanders. Civilian clothing is advisable when on leave. Climate of central and southern Greece is comparable to southern California; northern Greece compares to New England.

This concludes the TRAVELLER'S BRIEFING for

GREECE